



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

quantity of the same substance, in the most powerful furnaces; and with this advantage, that the process is always under the inspection of the operator; whereas he can only conjecture what passes in the centre of a furnace.

In using the blow-pipe for experiment, a piece of charcoal is generally used to support the subject, and held in the flame of the lamp; the charcoal should be of a close compact grain, and properly burnt; for if it is too little carbonised it will flame like a piece of wood, and obscure the object; and if it is too much burnt, it is so quickly consumed and burnt to ashes, that the object is in danger of being lost in it; the charcoal greatly increases the heat by reverberating the flame, and by heating the object at the opposite side; itself being converted into fuel, and excited by the blast, and thus creates an atmosphere of flame and heated air around it, which prevents the heat being carried off so fast, or the object being so much cooled, as if it should for an instant be moved out of the cone of the flame, from the unsteadiness of the hand, or from accidental currents of air, which would disturb the flame, and cause such a wavering in the point of the cone as to divert it in some measure from the object. In order to prevent more tallow than is necessary from being consumed, to produce the intended effect, it is convenient to have several lamps, with wicks of different thicknesses, viz. one to hold two flat cottons, (such as are used for the Liverpool lamps,) of about one inch and a quarter broad, another to hold four, and a third to hold six, or as much common wick yarn as is equal to those wicks in bulk; glass jets should also be provided of different sized apertures, to suit the greater or lesser sized wicks and flames, and deliver streams of air upon them proportionately, and their jets should point upwards in a small degree: hogslard is also equal, or perhaps superior to tallow for the lamp.

*On a new Method of planting Asparagus. By Mr. James Smyth, Gardener to the Earl of Kintore, at Keith-Hall, Aberdeenshire.*

[From the Transactions of the Caledonian Horticultural Society.]

In April, 1807, I sowed some drills of asparagus seeds, which succeeded very well. I had intended to let the plants stand two years in the seed-rows; but in the third

week in June, 1808, in preparing a piece of ground for a late crop of peas, it occurred, (owing to my having been often unsuccessful in the planting of asparagus in spring,) to try a drill of it at this uncommon season. At one side of this piece of ground, therefore, I prepared a small stripe, with plenty of rotten dung, which was dug in to the depth of eighteen inches, and carefully mixed to the surface. In a drill, four or five inches deep, I planted my asparagus, at that time twelve or fifteen inches high, at three inches apart; keeping the tops perfectly upright, and breaking or hurting the roots as little as possible. They were covered in with the spade, gently trod with the foot, and a good watering finished the operation.

Although no particular care was taken to keep the earth about the roots of the plants at the time of taking them up, I hardly perceived them to flag, or sit up in their growth a single day. I am certain that none of them died; and they surpassed, in the course of the summer, the plants that were left in the seed-rows.

The following winter I put the whole piece of ground in preparation for the remainder of the seedlings, and about the end of March I planted them in drills four feet asunder, and three inches in the drill; but although due attention was paid to them in every respect, not one-half of them came forward; while those that were planted the preceding June were making such progress that I could have cut some of them for use.

The piece of ground consists of a thin gravelly soil, with a large proportion of peat-moss in it, (perhaps two-thirds,) having been the foundation of an old peat-stack.

*Note by Mr. Nicol, Secretary to the Society.*

I can vouch for the correctness of this communication, having seen the asparagus in question. I wrote Mr. Smyth in December last, requesting a statement of the matter, in the shape of a communication to the Society. W. N.

*Leith-Walk, 2nd March, 1810.*

*On Gooseberry Caterpillars, and Maggots that infect Onions. By Mr. John Macmurray, Nurseryman.*

[From the Transactions of the Caledonian Horticultural Society.]

Observing that the Caledonian Horticultural Society has requested information